

**REMARKS**

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-6 and 8 are currently pending in this application. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of claim 7, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-6 and 8 contain allowable subject matter.

**Claim Objections**

The Examiner objected to claim 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 7). Claim 7 has been cancelled and claim 8 was rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the objection to the claim 8 is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)**

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being unpatentable over Cavelos et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,121,914) in view of Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No.

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**Application No.: 09/888,882**

5,949,370). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the rejected claim 7 has been cancelled and will be pursued in a continuation application


**Conclusion**

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 – 6 and 8, are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Mesecher et al.

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